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**CSC Website:**  
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### News From the Team

**From Adam Sutkus,**  
**Citizen Corps Program Director**

#### *News From The Team*

The last month has been a whirlwind of exciting change, accomplishments and production for your Citizen Corps partners in Sacramento. As you will read, we are now "official" as the California Service Corps-and no longer GO SERV. We also-thanks to Jim Brown and his statewide CERT Committee-are able to say that the CERT "Instructor Academy," affectionally titled T-4, has been successfully launched with its first class in Temecula. A Citizen Corps Strategic Planning template is almost completed, and the long-awaited Local Volunteer Management Plan (which many of you helped design through the stakeholder meetings) will be released for final comments mid-moth.

It is a busy and very productive time for us all. And with National Preparedness Month in September, the spotlight will be on our local and statewide programs that help make California a more prepared and safe state. With the 3rd anniversary of 9/11 this month, now is a special time to reflect on our collective mission of readiness and take pride in the work that we do everyday that helps our families, our neighborhoods and our communities.

I, along with the full Citizen Corps/CSC team appreciate your partnership and dedication to the principles of the Citizen Corps mission. Thanks again for all you do.

### The Launch of the California Service Corps

We are excited to inform you that on August 24<sup>th</sup> 2004, through Executive order S-14-04, the California Service Corps (CSC), formerly known as the Governor's Office on Service and

Volunteerism, was established to better communicate its purpose and broaden the scope of its work. First Lady Maria Shriver will serve as honorary chairwoman of CSC.

For additional information about opportunities for serving with the California Service Corps and more information regarding the members of the California Service Corp Commission call (916) 323-7646 or visit [www.csc.ca.gov](http://www.csc.ca.gov).

### CERT Update

*T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy:*

The premiere *T4: CERT Program Manager's Academy* was presented in Temecula, Riverside County on August 25-26. This course is presented by the California State CERT Working Group and was very well received by both new and the more experienced CERT Program Mangers in attendance. Some feedback comments were:

*"Outstanding! It was a pleasure to see a team of instructors from all over the state come together and work well together."*

*"This class provided me with a great networking opportunity."*

*"Great effort you guys! I enjoyed this class. I will return this information to my community."*

The purpose of this course is to assist CERT Program Managers to start, develop, enhance and expand CERT programs in their jurisdiction. Instruction focuses on each phase of a program and the following subject discussions: program management; retention of trained members; CERT program budgeting; effective graduations; marketing CERT; instructor techniques; and, refresher training and exercises.

The next *T4: CERT Program Manager Academy* courses will be

conducted in San Jose on September 22-23. Nominations for attendance at the Academy will be the responsibility of all Operational Area CERT coordinators. To register for this class please contact your Operational Area CERT Program contact. This course does not cover the basic CERT material as it is assumed that program manager nominees have a high level of understanding of the subject matter.

The final date for Operational Area CERT points-of-contact to submit nominees for this class to the California Service Corps is September 10, 2004. Nominations and any questions should be sent by e-mail to: Jeffrey Deutschman  
jeff.deutschman@GOSERV.CA.GOV  
Phone: (916) 322-4446

Future T4: *CERT Program Manager Academy* courses will be conducted in Fresno on October 27-28, in Los Angeles on December 1-2, and in Northern California in early 2005.

#### *CERT IN ACTION:*

The following is a letter written to a CERT Program Manager from a CERT member in Menlo Park Fire's CERT program:

"You'll be happy to know we got two more fire extinguishers from Costco recently - and have already used one. On Friday my husband and I were driving on Hwy 680. We came upon a car in the median strip, smoking heavily from the hood. The driver stood nearby with a young child. Another man had stopped before we did and had already used up his fire extinguisher. Soon ours was emptied into the hood, too. I was amazed how fast it was gone, even though CERT told us it would be gone in half a minute or less. A short time after each extinguisher was used up, flames began to spill from the car's hood again. We had done what we could, so we left. My husband observed that we may just have bought time for the local firefighters to get there without the fire spreading to the grass. Sure

enough, a moment later, we saw a fire truck moving quickly toward the spot. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare us for this moment of helpfulness."

#### *CERT WUI:*

Kurt Latipow, Fire Chief Ukiah Fire Department will present the Wildland Urban Interface Module for the Basic CERT Course at the National CERT Seminar at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute September 8-9. This module has been officially endorsed by FIRESCOPE and will be presented to the California Fire Chief's Association during their conference in Concord on September 21. This course is an advanced level course for CERT programs located in fire prone wild land areas.

Kurt has been facilitating the WUI Taskforce which includes; Bob Newman (Cambria), Denny Neville, (Rancho Santa Fe) and Rich Just (former CDF) since February 2004. The WUI class has been piloted twice; once in Cambria, San Luis Obispo County and once in San Rafael, Marin County. From all reports, both events were useful, informative and well received.

The group deserves a commendation for their hard work that will make California residents safer.

#### **2005 Appropriation**

September is "D-Day" for the 2005 appropriation process. Since the inception of Citizen Corps nationally and in California in 2002 there has not been such a critical moment in the program. Ironically, during September's National Preparedness Month, Congress is proposing to potentially cut the one dedicated citizen preparedness program by up to one-half of its current funding.

Quick summary: Last year's (2004) national appropriation was \$40 million for Citizen Corps, of which California received a population-

based portion of about \$2.7 million. For 2005, the House settled on \$20 million and the Senate \$30 million- setting the stage for a major cut once conference committee is completed, should nothing change.

A ground-swell of opposition to this proposed cut has been building. A San Francisco Chronicle article highlighted this issue recently, and the National Emergency Management Agency is expected to pass a policy position for the states outlining opposition to the proposed cut. Additionally, a statewide letter opposing the cut has been endorsed by a "who's who" list of key local organizations around the state- including the League of California Cities, CA State Association of Counties, California State Firefighters Assoc., National Citizens On Patrol, Business organizations and others. Several local governments in California are also planning to join other locals around the nation this month and visit key legislators on Capitol Hill and in district offices- and letters opposing the proposed cut are coming in to legislative offices and the media from grass-roots CERT teams, Citizen Corps Councils, VIPS and Medical Reserve Corps programs around the state and the nation.

For more information on the appropriation issue contact Adam Sutkus at 916-324-3056 or adam.sutkus@csc.ca.gov.

At the link below please find an article from the San Francisco Chronicle titled:  
**CATASTROPHE ON A SHOESTRING:**  
<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/08/16/MNGUB88JUS1.DTL>

#### **Fire Corps Advancing**

The 6th and newest charter program to Citizen Corps will soon receive California-specific attention. With the help of California's Fire community leaders, plans are taking

shape to design the program for our state that reflects the national approach and also addresses California Fire Service's specific needs. Hats off to Fresno, who's Fire leaders produced a "White Paper" on a proposed design to have Fire Corps implemented in their city. Fresno's White Paper, along with rollout materials from the national Fire organizations, will help us collectively craft a program that fits the needs of California. We will keep you posted as this effort matures.

### **National Preparedness Month**

September 1 kicks off National Preparedness Month. There has been a great deal of attention and preparation for this month from federal Dept. of Homeland Security and the White House. We expect to see public events all over the nation and significant focus on emergency prevention and preparedness from many perspectives. The Citizen Corps Staff within the California Service Corps has been working with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Earthquake Authority, Office of Homeland Security, the Governor's Office and Federal DHS in preparation for the month. We were able to highlight many local Citizen Corps Councils and CERT programs who have special events to honor National Preparedness Month-and of course, the third anniversary of 9/11. PLEASE NOTE: If you are doing anything special or interesting to commemorate 9/11 or National Preparedness Month, please let us know! We are tracking events with our other partner state agencies to highlight the interest and dedication to this cause around California. Please send to our open mailbox: [citizencorps@csc.ca.gov](mailto:citizencorps@csc.ca.gov).

### **Volunteer Data Management Project**

The Citizen Corps team, with CA OES, recently convened a conference call with local and national

organizations to discuss the emerging opportunities-and challenges-of managing volunteer information during emergencies. Database management was a consistent topic that emerged throughout the stakeholder design process for the Local Volunteer Management Plan, and is a topic also being considered nationally by response organizations such as FEMA/DHS, National Points of Light Foundation, National VOAD, and others. Many web-based and software systems have recently been designed and are in use in California-L.A. County/UCLA, Fresno Citizen Corps Council, Volunteer Center of San Bernardino & Sonoma, among others. Many of these systems were developed through Citizen Corps grant funds. The issues being discussed include: to what level is there a need for integration with California's Response Information Management System (RIMS)? How do these databases interface with each other, or do they need to? Citizen Corps/CSC committed to the conference call participants to summarize the notes into a "White Paper" to help guide discussion on the database management issue as it proceeds.

### **Website Revision/Communication Re-Vamp**

With the CSC change, our website was completely re-done. With a healthy Mea Culpa, we know that our role of sharing Best Practices and other key documents through our website and other delivery mechanisms has been delayed. We are now looking at our website, current communications techniques, and our partnership with DHS nationally to update outreach through our new CSC perspective. The CSC change gives us an opportunity to update the way we communicate. Along those lines, we need your input! We already are designing a "bulletin board" through our DHS/FEMA partners and their website (more soon), but we need to know what is good/what needs

improvement/what "new" functions through our web or other communications mechanisms would allow your programs and the statewide effort for Citizen Corps to build and grow. Please send your input to [Katrina.Rosseini@csc.ca.gov](mailto:Katrina.Rosseini@csc.ca.gov)

### **Medical Reserve Corps News**

With the recent addition of Malibu, there are now 18 California Medical Reserve Corps Units registered with the National Program Office. Alameda County has recently joined the statewide effort, and along with Kern County, Santa Cruz County, Riverside County and Cal ACEP (CA Chapter of the Academy of Emergency Room Physicians) bring our **state-wide total to 23 MRCs**. To get the complete list of California MRCs along with their contact information, go to the Emergency Medical Services Agency webpage ([www.emsa.ca.gov](http://www.emsa.ca.gov)), click on "Disaster Medical Services" on the left of the page, then on "Medical Reserve Corps Information". (A direct link is: [http://www.emsa.ca.gov/dms2/medical\\_reserve\\_corps.asp](http://www.emsa.ca.gov/dms2/medical_reserve_corps.asp).)

Welcomes: Alameda County is starting a Medical Reserve Corps. We welcome Alameda MRC Project Developer David Medina, PHN. Kern County has a new Coordinator: Frances Wilson, PHN, and Lt. Joe Sampson is taking over for Morgan Hill MRC's Bob Kelly. Welcome to all.

Local Unit Updates: Stacy Deeble-Reynolds reports the Beach Cities Health District MRC website is up & running. Find it at [www.beachcitiesmrc.org](http://www.beachcitiesmrc.org). But we are sorry to report that Stacy will be leaving for a full-time position with another agency. Stacy took the part-time job of MRC coordinator shortly after Beach Cities Health District received the DHHS Demonstration Grant in November 2003, when it was nothing but a name and a dream. Stacy's accomplishments have been

extraordinary in such a short time. She has been a very active member in our California MRC efforts, giving help and advice freely. We will all miss her helpful and cheerful voice on our monthly conference calls.

Orange County's Herb Rosenzweig and Vicki Bowman report progress is being made in setting up their unit. They have recently signed up their first two volunteers and the head of their local Citizen Corps will be giving a presentation at the first MRC Advisory Council meeting set for September 29<sup>th</sup>. We thank Belinda Jones, MRC Coordinator from Riverside County, for generously sharing her hard work when several units were having trouble accessing reproduction quality documents to produce unit brochures. Dr. Frank Randolph, San Bernardino County MRC, presented an overview of the national MRC efforts and described the San Bernardino County Unit in particular on a local TV station. Ann Baechler, Sonoma County MRC, reported that they had over 100 volunteers sign up for the MRC's flu clinic scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> in several locations around Santa Rosa.

EMSA Update: The Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) continues work on the development of a manual devoted to the "how-tos" of starting and maintaining a California Medical Reserve Corps. EMSA is soliciting input from all the state's MRCs. The manual will include all sorts of helpful information including sample protocols, press releases and forms. The aim of EMSA is to increase the number of MRCs across the state by easing the path. Please contact Sherrill Reed ([sreed@emsa.ca.gov](mailto:sreed@emsa.ca.gov)).

Training Opportunities: EMSA is co-sponsoring the "Seventh Annual California Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Management Conference 2004". It is scheduled for Sept 30<sup>th</sup> in Oakland, Oct 6<sup>th</sup> in Commerce & Oct 7<sup>th</sup> in Temecula. Additionally the always popular "Boot Camp" is scheduled for

September 29<sup>th</sup> in Oakland and October 5<sup>th</sup> in Commerce. ODP (Office of Domestic Preparedness) approval for the programs has been requested. See EMSA's webpage ([www.emsa.ca.gov](http://www.emsa.ca.gov)) for details.

### **Citizen Corps Progress!!!**

Citizen Corps Councils: 58  
CERT Programs: 124  
MRC: 23  
VIPS (registered): 186  
Neighborhood Watch (registered): 1634  
Fire Corps: TBD

### **NOTE TO GRANTEES**

The California Service Corps will not process requests for reimbursement from grantees that are out of compliance. The most common compliance issue is outstanding progress reports. Please be prompt.

### **Citizens Corps Contact:**

**Main Number....  
916.323.7646**

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